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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 68% Cloudy and windy Sensex 81,337 | Nifty 24,821 | Gold 97,890 | Silver 1,13,379 | Dollar 86.96 | Euro 100.33 | GBP 115.77

CRAMPED STYLE

Girinagar police station is functioning out of private building even six years after site was identified to set up new building

PAGE 4

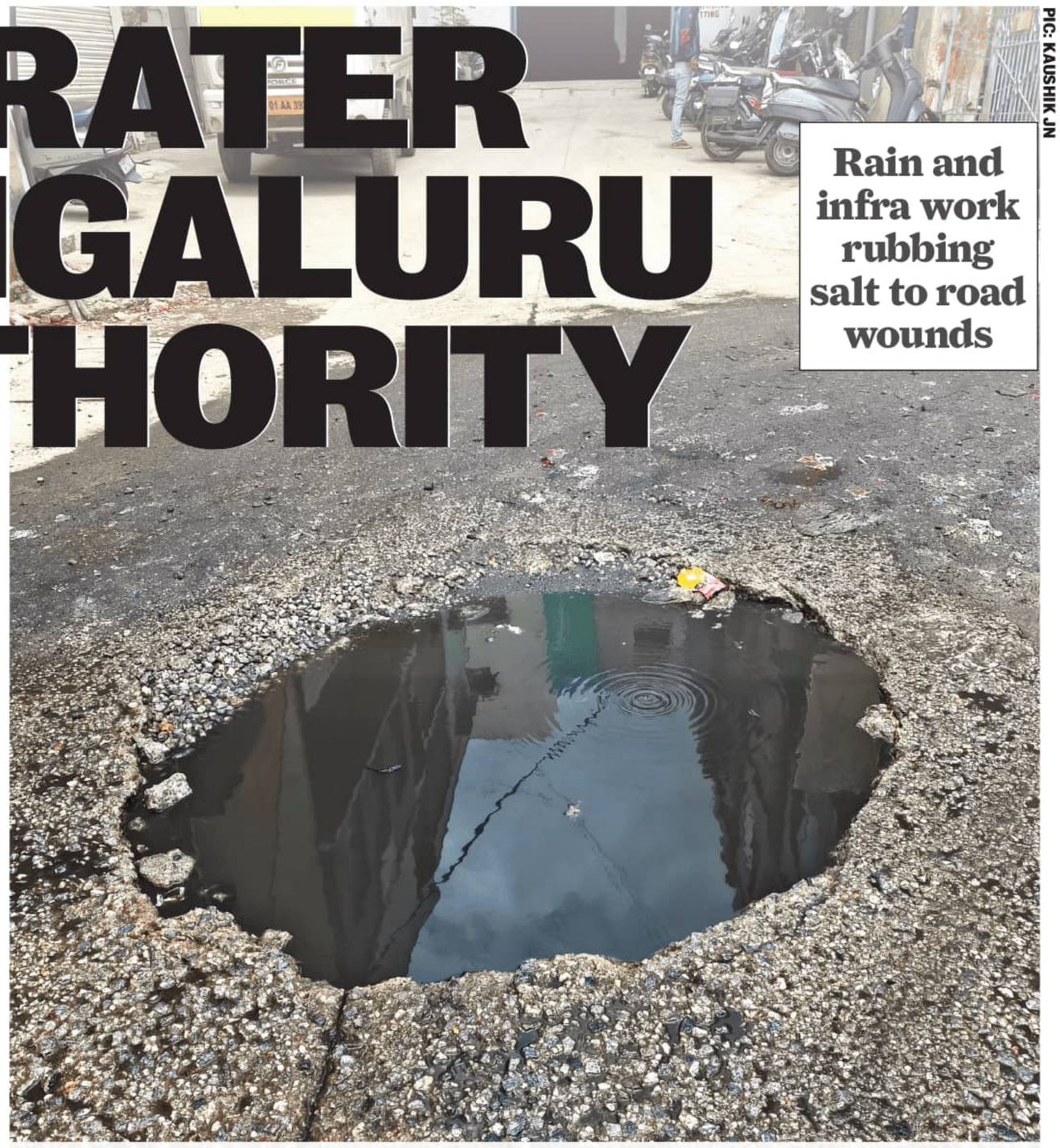
POLICE WORK

Collaboration between Hoysala and Nakabandi units aims to make nights safer; cops go knocking to engage with citizens, build trust

PAGE 5

Over ₹7.35 crore spent per day on city's roads — but not a single pothole-free stretch to be found. BBMP's task forces, hot mix plant are proving to be fantastic, but hollow promises

CRATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY



PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Rain and infra work rubbing salt to road wounds

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In just two years, the Karnataka government and BBMP have shelled out a jaw-dropping ₹5,365 crore — that's ₹7.35 crore every single day — on road development, asphalting, and white-topping in Bengaluru. And yet, there's no sign of relief on the ground. The potholes remain as immovable as ever, mocking both the money spent and the promises made.

According to BBMP data, the city has an extensive network of roads, with primary and secondary roads alone stretching over 1,344.84 km. Given the massive investments made in the last decade, citizens and experts argue that every road in Bengaluru should have been smooth and gleaming by now.

Instead, the reality is quite the opposite. In an effort to address this, the BBMP has formed special task forces to identify and repair potholes using complaints from citizens and traffic police as references. These task forces have even been delegated authority to approve funds and tenders.

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"BBMP had earlier warned that Assistant Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers would be held accountable for failing to repair potholes in their wards. But no disciplinary action has been reported so far

— Civic activist

Crash course

429 deaths in road accidents over last 6 months, marginal drop in fatalities as compared to last year

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In the first six months of 2025, Bengaluru witnessed more than 400 deaths in road accidents, averaging over two fatalities every day.

Overall, the city witnessed 2,281 accidents between January and June this year. Out of these, while 374 accidents were fatal, as many as 1,907 accidents were non-fatal.

The number of accidents, both fatal and non-fatal, recorded a marginal drop this year compared with the previous two years in the given period. In 2024, as many as 429 fatal road accident cases were recorded between January and June. In 2023, this number was 414.

Traffic police officials attribute the drop in the number of fatal accidents to strict enforcement measures through signage, along with the use of technology, including contactless enforcement measures and the Smart Enforcement Centre.

"We use Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and other latest technologies to enhance the enforcement capabilities of the traffic police. BTP is also considering road conditions and has been writing to the concerned PWS departments to ensure motorists are

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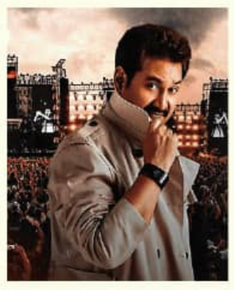
THINGS TO DO

01 Tune in



Kumar Sanu, known for his countless iconic hit songs, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his timeless, soulful music. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: August 9, 6 pm**

02 Verse voyage

Atta Galatta is presenting the 9th edition of the Bengaluru Poetry Festival with an interesting mix of poetry performances, explorations of the connections between poetry and music, discussions about poetry, and opportunities to learn through performances and interactive sessions. **Where: Indiranagar Sangeetha Sabha, Indiranagar; When: August 2 and 3**

03 Game of zones

Nexus Shantiniketan Mall is presenting 'Thrillscape', the ultimate immersive digital adventure zone, crafted with next-gen technologies blurring the line between reality and the digital realm to offer a futuristic entertainment experience. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall; When: Until August 31, 12 pm to 9 pm**

04 Rhythmic realm

Windmills is presenting a weekend of live music featuring Katya Krishnan, a Singapore-based South Asian singer-songwriter, known for her emotionally rich performances and genre-bending sound, blending R&B, pop, folk, and rock through soulful vocals and raw storytelling. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: August 1 and 2, 7 pm**

05 Operatic flair

Conductor Maria Badstue, soprano Cheryl Bains, tenor Alok Kumar, and the musicians of the South Asian Symphony Orchestra are presenting 'Peace Notes: An Evening at the Opera', an evening of gorgeous music, intensity, drama, and emotion. **Where: Christ University Auditorium, SG Palya; When: August 2, 5 pm**

BBMP's park revamp draws public criticism

Renewal of park was not necessary considering its recent establishment, say citizens, highlighting that pavers removed from park appear to be in satisfactory condition

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Citizens and social activists have questioned the rationale behind allocating taxpayers' money on the redevelopment of Swachcha Shakthi Udayanavana in Girinagar within two years of its inauguration. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently undertook development activities at the park, which was inaugurated in 2023, resulting in public disapproval over the use of funds at the park, which was reportedly in fair condition.

As per the inauguration details outside the park, it was inaugurated by Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, while Basavanagudi MLA LA Ravi Subramanya presided over the inaugural function held on March 5, 2023.

> **"I do not know why those pavers were removed from the pathway of the park. I want the higher authorities to ensure no misuse of taxpayers' money**
> – Jeevan L, a social activist from Girinagar

"There was no need to redevelop the park. It was in good condition and no resident has demanded the BBMP to replace the pavers with new ones," said SMR Prasad, a resident of Girinagar . The contractor has allegedly removed old pavers and placed them on the footpath. "These pavers which are in good condition may be shifted to other locations for the benefit of private people. There is no accountability in spending funds allocated by the BBMP," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP authorities for wasting taxpayers' money, Jeevan L, a social activist from Girinagar, said that the BBMP authorities should have directed the contractor who developed the park in 2023, to fix the problems if there were any, instead of engaging a contractor to redevelop the park within just two years. "The pavers removed from the park and kept on the footpath are in a good condition. I do not know why those pavers were removed from the pathway of the park. I want the higher authorities to ensure no misuse of taxpayers' money," he said. Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Engineer (Girinagar) was not available to comment on the issue.

Above: Inauguration stone outside the park mention its inauguration date as March 5, 2023; Below: Old pavers removed and kept outside the park

BBP marks International Tiger Day

Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) observed International Tiger Day on Tuesday with a series of educational activities aimed at raising awareness about tiger conservation.

The celebrations included an interactive touch table showcasing tiger identification using pugmarks, camera traps, and stripe patterns. Volunteers actively engaged with the public, sharing valuable insights about tiger biology, behaviour, threats, ecological significance, and conservation efforts.

An enrichment activity was organised for the tigress 'Anushka' at the zoo, enhancing her physical and mental well-being through environmental stimulation. Visitors also enjoyed a guided tour of the Butterfly Park, which included the release of tiger butterflies—including striped, plain, and blue tiger butterflies—highlighting the importance of biodiversity alongside tiger conservation. Adding a creative touch, face art sessions were also offered, apart from a donation drive to encourage public participation in wildlife conservation.

Entry fee hiked

The entry fee to the Bannerghatta Biological Park Zoo has been hiked by 20 per cent, starting August 1. The Governing Council of Zoo Authority of Karnataka decided to revise the entry fee of the Zoo at BBP, citing increased expenditures towards fuel charges, feeding, maintenance, establishment, and other recurring expenses.

The entry fee for adults is Rs 120, Rs 60 for children, and Rs 70 for senior citizens. However, the entry fee to the Butterfly Park has not been revised. The combo ticket fare for the BBP Zoo and Butterfly Park has also been revised to Rs 170 for adults, Rs 90 for children, and Rs 100 for senior citizens. **— BMB**

CAPI 2025 focuses on safety in interventional pulmonology

The first global conference on complications and safety in interventional pulmonology, CAPI 2025, concluded in Bengaluru this week. The event brought together medical professionals and experts from across the world to discuss real-life complications in procedural medicine. The conference was hosted by Dr Ravindra Mehta, founder of Vaayu Chest and Sleep Specialty Centre, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Interventional Pulmonary Alliance (APIPA).

For the first time, complications were presented as a central theme for discussion. Dr Mehta said the aim was to learn from real-world errors, near misses, and outcomes to improve patient and operator safety. "Safety and careful planning ensures a good night's sleep for both the patient and the operator," he said. The event received support from Rohini and Nandan Nilekani. In a joint address, they highlighted the importance of open discussion and honesty in medical learning. On the second day, CAPI introduced the world's first 'Complications Museum', inaugurated by Dr David Fielding from Australia and Dr Pyng Lee from Singapore. The museum showcased real cases across four galleries, aiming to create a learning platform based on actual experiences. Live workstations were also set up to allow participants to engage with case-based complications. **— BMB**

Flower and fruit prices soar ahead of festivals

With a series of festivals coming up, prices of flowers, fruits, coconuts, and other puja essentials have surged across Karnataka. A drop in flower production due to heavy rains has led to skyrocketing prices—chrysanthemums now cost Rs 350 to Rs 400 per kg, and other flowers like jasmine, marigold, and roses have seen similar spikes. Fruits too, are costlier, with sweet lime and custard apple reaching Rs 100/kg, apples and pomegranates touching Rs 200/kg, and small coconuts holding steady at Rs 40 to Rs 50 each due to their high demand during rural rituals.

Adding to the inflation, tomato prices—once drastically low—have risen again. Retail rates have jumped from Rs 20/kg last week to Rs 25-30/kg, with wholesale prices in Kolar's Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) market hitting Rs 750 per 15 kg box. This rebound has brought relief to farmers who faced losses in recent months. Traders attribute the spike to reduced local supply, crop damage due to rain, and increased exports to northern states. With monsoon affecting flower yield and no let-up in festival demand until Shravan ends, prices are expected to remain high. **— BMB**

51,000 students miss out on CET mock seat allotment

In the mock seat allotment results announced by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on July 25 for professional course admissions, over 51,000 students did not receive seats in any colleges due to errors in their option entry. Based on students' submitted preferences, 1.07 lakh out of 1.58 lakh students received seat allotments, while 51,935 were left out—mainly due to unrealistic or insufficient college choices. Many students listed only top colleges without considering their rank or previous cut-offs, leading to zero allotment.

KEA officials clarified that this is just a mock allotment, and students can still correct their choices by July 29, 5 pm, to avoid issues in the final round. Students are advised to select at least 150-200 colleges, matching their rank and past cut-offs, rather than limiting choices to a few top institutions. The final mock result will be published on August 1, with the real allotment list out on August 2. The window for actual seat selection will open from August 4 to 7. **— BMB**

Clone con: Man looking to rent home loses ₹4L

Software employee loses large sum in online rental scam after making payments for 'verification' to fraudsters posing as property managers on fake website; police urge public to double-check before transferring money

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Finding a home is a basic need, and many turn to popular property websites for their search. In a scam exploiting this, a resident of Aadugodi filed a police complaint after losing ₹4.87 lakh in an online rental fraud while trying to book a house through a popular online platform. The incident, which occurred between July 20 and July 22, involved multiple online transfers made to two individuals posing as property managers.

According to the complaint, the victim, a software employee who was in Whitefield at the time, was searching for a rental house on the website. During the search, the complainant came across a property owned by Srinivasan and Rajendra Jain. On contacting the listed owners through the phone numbers provided, the complainant was told to speak with two managers, identified as Dharmendra and Nandakishora.

The complainant reached out to the managers, who insisted that a series of payments were required for online verification of the property before it could be secured. Trusting their assurances, the complainant transferred ₹3,00,004 in stages to Nandakishora and ₹1,87,237 in stages to Dharmendra over three days. Each time the complainant questioned the payments, the managers claimed that the money was non-refundable and necessary to proceed with the verification process.

After completing the transfers, the complainant realised that no property booking had been made and the managers had not delivered on their promises. Realising that they had been cheated, the victim immediately called the cybercrime helpline at 1930 and registered complaints.

Subsequently, the complainant visited the police station and lodged a formal complaint against the accused individuals. The police have registered a case of online fraud and have begun investigating the suspects involved in the scam. During the preliminary investigation, police officials found that the online platform involved in the fraud was a cloned version. "It had the same colour and logo as the original, with just a small dot difference, so users failed to recognise it. Trusting the app and believing the owner was genuine, the victim did not verify the house by visiting the spot. Instead, he relied only on a virtual video tour and booked the property." Police Inspector from Adugodi added.

> **"It had the same colour and logo as the original, with just small dot difference, so users failed to recognise it** –Police inspector

Police officials further explained that 50% of software employees fall for such traps. Last year, in 2024, 1.6% cases were registered under advance fee fraud, where 0.29% the total amount was lost. Advance fee fraud is a common scam where victims are tricked into paying upfront for promised rewards that never arrive. Scammers lure with lotteries, inheritances, jobs, loans, or investments, demanding fees for taxes or processing. Here in this rental scam, scammers pose as landlords, advertising properties that are unavailable or don't exist, requesting a deposit or advance rent payment and then vanishing.

The victim was approached by individuals posing as property owners and managers, who pressured them into paying for "online verification." They insisted the payments were non-refundable and necessary to proceed, ultimately convincing the victim to transfer the money. Police officials have urged the public to exercise caution while making payments for property bookings online.

Elderly man killed after dog attack

A 68-year-old man died after being mauled by a pack of stray dogs around 3 am on Sunday in Telecom Layout, Kempegowda Nagar, Yelahanka Zone, under the Byatarayanapura constituency. The man was walking alone, wrapped in a blanket, when the attack occurred.

The victim, identified as Seethappa, had stepped out of his house when 7–8 stray dogs attacked him. Despite his attempts to escape, he fell to the ground, sustaining grievous injuries on his hands, legs, and face.

Local sources revealed that Seethappa had stepped out to a nearby tea shop around 3 am when the incident occurred. At present, there is no concrete evidence, such as CCTV footage or eyewitness accounts, to clarify the sequence of events. Due to the early morning hour and the absence of people in the area, no immediate help was available. Shortly after the attack, a complaint was lodged through the emergency helpline 112.

Beat police officers patrolling nearby rushed to the spot and attempted to rescue him, but Seethappa had already succumbed to his injuries by the time help arrived.

His body was shifted to hospital for postmortem. A Unnatural Death Report has been registered at the Kodigehalli police station, and the deceased's son has lodged a formal complaint. Police are investigating the incident.

The BBMP officials stated, "The BBMP Animal Husbandry Division has captured 16 street dogs from the vicinity of the incident and placed them under observation at the Yelahanka Division's Animal Birth Control and Anti-Rabies Centre. Efforts continue to capture the remaining dogs. Should the post-mortem report confirm that the cause of death was due to street dog bites or attack, compensation will be provided to the family as per the BBMP regulations." **— BMB**

Threats to Ramya: CCB takes over; FIR against 43

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has transferred the investigation into threats against actress and former MP Ramya to the Central Crime Branch (CCB). Ramya had filed a four-page complaint alleging she received obscene messages and death threats on Instagram from individuals claiming to be fans of actor Darshan.

An FIR was registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station against 43 Instagram account holders, including users named Pramod Gowda, D Boss Ganga, Akash, and others. The case is booked under the provisions of the IT Act and IPC, including criminal intimidation and sexual harassment.

An ACP-rank officer will lead the probe under the Joint Commissioner's supervision. CCB officials met Ramya on Tuesday to collect more details.

The threats followed Ramya's recent praise of the Supreme Court's handling of the Renukaswamy murder case, after which her account was flooded with abusive messages.

Home Minister G Parameshwara emphasised the seriousness of the issue, stating, "This development must be taken very seriously. Such incidents should not recur. Today it has happened to actress Ramya; tomorrow, someone else could become a victim. We must put an end to this. The Bengaluru Police Commissioner will take appropriate action."

Parameshwara clarified that he had not issued any special directives, adding, "The police will act as required. We have also acknowledged the State Women's Commission's letter on this matter and will respond accordingly. I will instruct the concerned authorities to ensure such incidents are prevented in the future."

Parameshwara reiterated that such acts "must be stopped immediately."

Abusive fan pages target actor Pratham

Kannada actor Pratham filed a formal complaint with the Superintendent of Police, Bangalore district, alleging that he was threatened with death by a group of individuals linked to actor Darshan's fan community.

In his complaint, Pratham stated that on July 22, a cinema promoter named Mahesh invited him to the Ellamma Temple in Doddaballapur for a puja. While returning around 3.50 pm, he was intercepted by Yashaswini, Baker Raghu, and several unknown individuals, who allegedly forced him to an undisclosed village. There, they verbally abused him and threatened to kill him, brandishing a dagger and a knife, while accusing him of making remarks against Darshan and his associates.

Pratham further claimed that the assailants showed him a photograph of Darshan inside a jail barracks and mocked him, stating that he had narrowly escaped a serious attack. He said three friends who were with him during the incident witnessed the threats. The actor has expressed fear for his life, alleging that Darshan's fan groups, including official pages like D Dynasty, D Kingdom, D Universe, and Devil, have continued to harass him online since July 28, with over 500 abusive posts targeting his reputation.

After filing a complaint, Pratham announced he had begun a "fast unto death" demanding that Darshan personally intervene and advise his followers to stop trolling. Pratham has requested immediate police protection and strict legal action against those involved.

Police nab sneaky passengers

The Peenya Police arrested three women from Kalaburagi who posed as bus passengers and allegedly stole gold ornaments from women travelling long distances. The arrests have led to the recovery of 190 grams of gold worth ₹16 lakh and the solving of four theft cases, police said on Thursday.

The complainant, a woman from Madhwara, had boarded a bus to Hassan from the 8th Mile bus stand on May 24, carrying 50 grams of gold jewellery for a wedding. She later discovered the valuables missing and filed a complaint at Peenya Police Station the next day. Police tracked the movement of the suspects and took three burqa-clad women into custody near the same bus stop on July 16, two of them identified as Padma (34) and Anu (25). Interrogation revealed the accused had committed similar thefts by blending in with passengers and targeting women during crowded boarding situations. Police said they got off the bus claiming there were no seats after flicking jewellery.

Behind fake invoices

Cottonpet Police have arrested six individuals and seized 53.5 kg of ganja along with a haul of electronic items, fake documentation, and a goods vehicle, all valued at 42 lakh.

Following a tip-off on July 12, police intercepted two men selling ganja from a goods auto near the veterinary hospital in the area. The contraband, concealed in garment boxes, is believed to have originated from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Investigations led to the arrest of four more persons. The Bihar-based mastermind allegedly placed his associates in cargo and courier companies to facilitate the smooth flow of narcotics under the guise of legitimate goods. He used local operatives to reroute the consignments through cargo services or trains to other cities using fake GST bills as cover.

Girinagar police still wait for promised new station

Three decades on, policemen work out of a rented garage as legal hurdles stall construction on a site donated for the police station in 1994

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(1) Entrance of Girinagar Police Station; (2) The condition of the porch of Girinagar Police Station; (3) Condition of the first floor of Girinagar Police Station

It may not be an exaggeration to say that Girinagar Police Station is the only one in Bengaluru South still operating from a private building. Surprisingly, despite three decades having passed, higher authorities have yet to take concrete steps to relocate the station to a more suitable facility. As a result, police personnel continue to function out of a cramped, makeshift setup originally meant for residential use. The lack of proper infrastructure has forced some policemen to work from space intended to be garage, highlighting the urgent need for a well-equipped, purpose-built police station to serve both residents and law enforcement efficiently.

The authorities did allocate a site for Girinagar Police Station in 1994 through Vishwabharati Housing Society, but due to unresolved legal issues, the police department has been unable to proceed with the construction even after three decades.

Bangalore Mirror, on October 17, 2019, reported that after a 25-year wait, Girinagar Police Station finally got its site, donated by Vishwabharati Housing Society to the then Police Commissioner through a gift deed. Sources revealed that the police department has been paying ⊠84,000 per month as rent for the private building where the station currently operates, despite having an allocated site pending development due to legal hurdles.

Enter Girinagar Police Station, and you're greeted by police personnel working out of a garage. The porch is in such poor condition that visitor safety is a serious concern, with visible spalling concrete overhead. The situation worsens on the first floor, where damp, peeling walls and exposed, hanging wires create a hazardous environment for both staff and the public. The entire structure shows signs of severe neglect.

"Our higher authorities are aware of the condition of the building. They have already identified a site for the construction of the building. I hope the construction will begin shortly," said a police constable on the condition of anonymity.

Some of the residents have expressed concern over the poor condition of the building and exorbitant rent being paid to the owner of the building. "The police department has to take initiative to commence the construction work as early as possible," said Jeevan L, a resident.

Meanwhile, Anil Kumar GR, a social activist, said that he had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the High Court seeking restoration of the site donated by Vishwabharati Housing Society to Girinagar Police Station.

> **"Our higher authorities are aware of the condition of the building. They have already identified a site for the construction. I hope the work begins shortly** – Police constable

Anil Kumar filed a PIL in the High Court on June 7, 2019, regarding the long-pending relocation of Girinagar Police Station. On July 9, 2019, the High Court directed the station's Inspector to inspect the site and submit a status report. The report expressed concern about possible land grabbing, noting that the site was being illegally used as a playground, for commercial activities, and as a parking space, highlighting the urgent need for proper protection and development.

Eco-friendly Ganesha Habba gets citywide push

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Residential apartment complexes across Bengaluru are stepping up to support the cause of celebrating an eco-friendly Ganesha Habba this year. They plan to do so by organising idol-making workshops using natural clay ahead of the festival on August 27. These workshops are aimed at raising awareness and encouraging residents to adopt sustainable, environment-friendly practices during the celebrations.

This year, the Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) has partnered with a city-based non-governmental organisation to conduct workshops in multiple apartment complexes across the city. The goal is to educate children and families about the advantages of using clay Ganesha idols instead of those made of Plaster of Paris (PoP).

"We will be launching a campaign in early August to promote the benefits of clay Ganesha idols and the negative environmental impact of PoP idols. These workshops will be organised cluster-wise, targeting children in particular. We believe early education can create long-term behavioural change. The focus is to institutionalise the tradition of celebrating Ganesha Habba only with clay idols," said Satish Mallya, Vice President of Bangalore Apartment Federation.

Last year, BAF conducted a pilot initiative in five to six apartment complexes. Based on the encouraging response, the programme will be scaled up this year to include all 30 BAF clusters citywide.

Gurumurthachar of Parisara Art Foundation, who will be conducting the workshops for BAF, explained that participants will learn to make Ganesha idols using natural clay and without chemical-based colours. The idols will be created in keeping with Dharma Shastra guidelines, and their height will not exceed five inches. Since they are small, they do not require metal supports such as iron rods.

"Each session will last about 60 minutes. In addition to hands-on idol making, we will include a short session explaining how PoP harms aquatic ecosystems. The clay we will use is sourced from lakes located on the outskirts of the city," said Gurumurthachar. The clay idols can later be immersed in artificial ponds temporarily created within each apartment campus, thus avoiding water pollution in public lakes and reservoirs.

Recently, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre instructed officials from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) to enforce restrictions on the transportation and storage of PoP idols. He also urged officials to liaise with apartment associations to raise awareness among residents.

A 2023 circular by the environment ministry had already banned the sale and production of PoP idols across Karnataka.

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Infrastructure lapse

Netaji Road

The stretch near the water tank on Netaji Road continues to pose a risk, with an open railway wall endangering commuter. Despite multiple complaints, BBMP has not responded or taken corrective measures.

Manhole threat

Basaveshwaranagar

A dangerously sinking manhole cover near a hospital in Basaveshwaranagar has become a serious public safety concern. Residents urge civic authorities to act swiftly before an accident occurs.

Neglected stretch

Doddakallasandra

The road near Mantri Serenity, adjacent to Doddakallasandra Metro Station, is in a dilapidated state. Despite repeated complaints, BBMP remains inactive, sparking resident frustration and concerns over commuter safety.

Addicts, peddlers to face identical legal charges

Stepping up efforts to achieve a Drug-Free Karnataka, the State Police Department has decided to take strict legal action not just against drug peddlers but also drug users. With this, individuals addicted to drugs will no longer be let off easily—they too will face criminal prosecution under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Though Section 27 of the NDPS Act permits police to register cases against drug users, enforcement has been weak. In Bengaluru, the police had once actively used this provision, but for the past two years, legal action against users had nearly ceased. Investigations into peddlers had also slowed down. Realising the seriousness of this gap, the Director General of Police (DGP), Dr MA Saleem, has now instructed officers to act firmly against users as well.

Focus on schools, colleges

The crackdown will initially target major urban centres like Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and Mysuru. Police teams will monitor school and college zones, paying guest accommodations, pubs, and restaurants. Suspected individuals will undergo drug-use testing, and if found positive, legal cases will be filed under Section 27 of the NDPS Act, a senior police official confirmed.

What law says

As per Section 27 of the NDPS Act, confirmed drug users can face imprisonment from 6 months to 1 year and a fine. However, Section 64A offers a reprieve, users who voluntarily undergo treatment in a recognised de-addiction centre may be exempted from prosecution.

Key to uncovering peddler networks

Officials say drug users can offer leads about peddlers, where the drugs come from, and how networks operate. By registering cases and investigating users, police hope to identify hidden peddlers.

Explosives found, trio arrested

The Kalasipalya police arrested three men on July 28 for planting explosives at the Kalasipalya BMTC bus stand on July 23, around 9.30 am. A total of 22 gelatin sticks (REX-90-JEL) and 30 detonators were recovered from the accused.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Ganesh HM (28), Muniraju (38), both residents of Hanchala, Sulikunte Hobli, Madamangala Post, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar district, and Shivakumar (32) of Begli Benjanahalli, Kolar Taluk. They were taken into custody under the provisions of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, and the Explosives Act, 1884.

Taking the case seriously, senior officials formed five special teams that swung into action. With the support of informants and technical surveillance, the teams apprehended the three suspects on July 28. Preliminary investigations revealed that the seized gelatin sticks were manufactured in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu. Police were able to identify and track down the suspects using CCTV footage that captured one of their faces.

Police said the explosives had been strategically planted at the busy bus terminal, posing a major threat to public safety. Investigations are underway.

Feel the beat

Police now knock to understand, not inquire

Under 'Mane Manege Police' initiative, officers across Karnataka are visiting homes to build trust and listen to citizens' concerns; program aims to foster familiarity, flag issues early, and strengthen community ties

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In a quiet yet impactful shift from traditional enforcement to community-first policing, officers across Karnataka are now stepping into homes not to question, but to listen. Under the initiative "Mane Manege Police", beat officers across the state, including Bengaluru, are visiting households regularly, engaging with citizens in a more personal and trust-driven manner.

Launched on July 18, this people-centric program encourages officers to visit around 40–50 homes per beat, gather concerns, share helpline numbers, and record insights without the pressure of paperwork. These visits aren't restricted to once a month; beat officers operate in 15-day cycles, while senior officers participate actively every second Saturday.

Beat beyond policing

"Across the city and the state, our beat officers are actively visiting homes, engaging with citizens, and gathering valuable insights. The response has been overwhelmingly positive," said Seemant Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru. "A designated nodal officer is tasked with monitoring progress, assessing feedback, positive or negative and ensuring corrective steps are taken promptly," he added.

While the initiative operates under the umbrella of the e-beat framework, it now transcends policing boundaries. Inter-departmental meetings, Janasamparka Sabha are being held alongside to address issues related to civic amenities, power supply, and social grievances flagged during these visits. However, if urgent non-policing matters arise during house visits, the police immediately escalate them to the relevant departments.

Building familiarity, boosting safety

The Commissioner added that female police officers are assigned to women-only households, enabling more candid conversations around domestic abuse, harassment, and substance-related distress. "While it may not directly record early distress signals, the police now have a better understanding of localities, and residents know who they can turn to. It's a step towards mutual familiarity and timely intervention," the Commissioner added.

He clarified that while no specific areas are being prioritised, the initiative ensures coverage across all localities, including sensitive zones, vulnerable areas, and communities at higher risk. "Eventually, every area will be visited as part of the program," he said.

Since its launch, the initiative has received a warm response from the public. Many residents, particularly senior citizens and women, say it has helped them form a sense of connection and trust with the local police, who often felt distant from their day-to-day concerns.

> **"Our beat officers are actively visiting homes, engaging with citizens, and gathering valuable insights**
> –Seemant KS, Commissioner of police

Concerns about privacy and overreach were addressed at the outset. Officers have been clearly instructed not to collect any personal information during visits. All feedback is voluntary, and any follow-up action is routed strictly through formal channels.

Hoysala, Nakabandi join forces at night

With just 10% of 112 emergency calls coming at night, the city police have ramped up by enhancing night patrol operations, by pairing collaboration between Hoysala and Nakabandi units by boosting manpower by deploying Hoysalas to work alongside night beat patrol teams as part of enhanced security measures.

Under this initiative, Hoysala personnel, traditionally tasked with rapid response duties and area patrols, will continue their routine operations while extending support to the expanded night crime prevention plan. The Nakabandi units, known for their strategic deployments and focus on intercepting criminal activity, will now work in tandem with Hoysala teams to form a dual-layered safety network.

The City Police Commissioner, Seemant Kumar Singh, explained, "Analysis of 112 emergency helpline calls shows that only about 10% of calls come in during the night, while daytime calls average between 1,500 and 1,700 per day. We are working to streamline the process; calls are received at the Command Centre, which then identifies the nearest Hoysala vehicle and dispatches it to the caller's location. Senior police officials can now monitor and issue instructions in real-time, enabling Hoysala teams to respond quickly to distress calls. With increased manpower on the streets, we can address situations proactively, often before the public even calls for help."

The Commissioner described this as a "proactive approach," stating, "We don't want to be reactive but proactive. Our goal is to ensure round-the-clock vigilance, deter criminal elements, and strengthen public confidence." Further commissioner stated that the highest top crimes are theft cases, such as mobile snatching and road rage.

He explained that with Hoysala teams carrying out their regular duties and senior officials closely monitoring CCTV cameras, the aim is to respond to issues even before a neighbour or the public raises an alarm. While it may not be possible to stop every incident immediately, efforts are focused on covering all areas.

Commissioner calls it proactive step to boost safety, vigilance, and trust

Further Commissioner stated that he is doing a surprise patrol and inspection, visiting stations along with DCPs. Recently, Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh made a surprise visit late Saturday night to check on night patrols at key junctions and check posts in the city.

He inspected places like Shantala Junction in Majestic, the CCB Office Junction in Chamarajpet, Rajajinagar, and Yeshwanthpur HMT Road. Central Division DCP Akshay Machindra updated him on the ongoing blockade work. During the visit, the Commissioner also checked how staff were working at the check posts and instructed that jackets and umbrellas be given to night-duty personnel to protect them from rain and cold. Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh instructed that Hoysala teams should also carry out regular checks at designated posts. —**Sanjana CS**

VK Excellence & Honor Awards: Trailblazers Felicitated

VK EXCELLENCE & HONOR
MYSORE, SHIVAMOGGA & CHITRADURGA EDITION
2025

In a significant announcement at the VK Excellence & Honor Awards hosted by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror in Bengaluru, Large & Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil revealed that the government is poised to introduce strategic initiatives to streamline and fortify Karnataka's agriculture and industrial sectors.

Speaking to an audience of distinguished achievers and dignitaries, the Minister highlighted Karnataka's rich industrial legacy, crediting visionary leaders like the Mysore Maharajas for laying the foundation of economic development. "Institutions such as BHEL, KSDL (Mysore Sandal Soap), and Mysore Paper Mills are milestones in our industrial journey. The time has come to build upon this legacy and establish Karnataka as a global manufacturing hub," he remarked.

He also touched upon the role of responsible journalism in a time of rising misinformation.

"As society grapples with fake news, the need for accurate, ethical reporting is more critical than ever. Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror continue to rise to this challenge by sharing authentic stories of success, particularly in agriculture and industry, thereby contributing meaningfully to Karnataka's progress," Minister Patil noted.

Minister M.B. Patil inaugurates the VK Excellence and Honor Awards ceremony. Also present were Deepak Saluja, CEO of **Vijay Karnataka** and **Bangalore Mirror** along with Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli

"The Karnataka government is steadily steering the state toward becoming an economic powerhouse. Bengaluru, already hailed as the city of startups, is making significant contributions to India's economy. Through trust and dedication, Vijay Karnataka is recognizing talents across diverse fields and bringing their stories to readers. These awards serve as motivation for further achievement.

Deepak Saluja, CEO, Vijay Karnataka & Bangalore Mirror

"Karnataka has made remarkable progress across sectors, from education to industry. Vijay Karnataka is committed to showcasing this growth on a global platform. We publish verified, authentic news and continuously monitor the impact of our stories on governance. Recognizing achievers today is both a joy and an inspiration to many.

Sudarshan Channangihalli, Editor, Vijay Karnataka

"Artificial intelligence is no match for human intelligence and emotional depth. If our thoughts turn positive, crime and negativity will naturally diminish. A change in mindset can transform society. This is the direction in which Vijay Karnataka is progressing, making us all proud.

Tharun Sudhir, Film Director

Decision Soon on Balancing Agriculture and Industry: Minister M.B. Patil

In a grand ceremony hosted by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror at a private hotel in Bengaluru, 18 achievers from Mysuru, Mandya, Chikkamagaluru, Shivamogga, Davanagere, and Chitradurga regions were felicitated with the prestigious VK Excellence and Honor Awards.

"What AWARDEES said

"Being honoured at the VK Excellence and Honor ceremony is a moment of immense pride. Minister M.B. Patil's presence added value, and the event was impeccably organized. This award has encouraged me to further extend free education to deserving students. Heartfelt thanks to The Times of India Group and Vijay Karnataka."

Dr. Anil Kumar M.R., Principal, Raghavendra Hi-Tech PU College and Shri Sharada IIT & NEET Academy, Davanagere

"As someone from Karnataka's border region, receiving this recognition is a source of great pride. The event energized me to achieve even more. Heartfelt thanks to the VK editorial and organizing team."

Abdul Subhan Saheb, Progressive Farmer, Hirekerehalli, Molakalmuru (T) Chitradurga (D)

"This award from Vijay Karnataka has reinvigorated my mission in mental health awareness. Every year, thousands die by suicide due to neglect and misconceptions. This honor strengthens my resolve to serve. I dedicate it to my mother, our patients, and our team."

Dr. Aravind S.T., Chief Consultant Psychiatrist & MD, Positive Mind Hospital, Shivamogga

"Honouring individuals from various sectors sets an inspiring example. This event will serve as a model for future recognition."

Dr. Aniketh Vijay Balegadde, Cardiologist & Director, Ashraya Multi specialty and Super specialty Hospital, Chikkamagaluru

"This recognition of my medical service is a proud milestone. It has encouraged me to engage more deeply in social work."

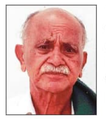
Dr. Lokesh Eshwara, Founder and Managing Partner, Vistara Hospital, Mysuru

"This recognition from Vijay Karnataka has heightened my sense of responsibility. The meticulous organization and the heartfelt encouragement were extraordinary."

Anoop N. Patel, President, Swami Vivekananda International School, Shivamogga

"Receiving the award for my work in the agri-based industry, especially from director Tharun Sudhir, was a moment of great happiness. This motivates me to work harder and innovate for farmers."

Nagasamudra Prakash G.R., Founder, SGM Technologies, Shivamogga



"Only when farmers live peacefully can the state prosper. Recognizing contributors from agriculture to industry is a beautiful initiative. Sharing the stage with dignitaries was a privilege."

K. Chikkanna, President, Akhanda Karnataka Raitha Sangha, Challakere

"Meeting achievers from different districts was an enriching experience. Grateful to Vijay Karnataka for this unique opportunity."

Pruthviraj Kowri, Kowri Estate, Koppa, Chikkamagaluru

"The way senior achievers were honored truly inspires the youth. Recognizing local achievers with such finesse is commendable."

Dr. Durgesh Javaregowda, Founder Director, NJ Hospital, Mysuru

"Recognizing grassroots efforts like ours through these awards proves that society notices sincerity. This recognition will fuel more social initiatives."

Srinivasan Raghavan, Managing Trustee, Bhoovarahanatha Swamy Temple, Kallahalli, Bookanakere Hobli, K R Pet Taluk, Mandya Dist

"It was a proud moment to be seated among such distinguished achievers. While governments often honour the well-known, Vijay Karnataka is recognizing unsung heroes. That makes this award even more meaningful."

Dr. Hafiz Karnataki, Founder Chairman, Zubaida Vidya Samste, Shikaripura

"Felicitating community workers like us is a proud moment. These awards inspire us to further strengthen our impact."

Lion K.G. Sridhar Patil, Lions Club District Chairperson, Children Coordinator, Director, Sarvodaya Nagar Lions Club, Kallihal, Shivamogga

"Vijay Karnataka has done exemplary work by honoring achievers across sectors. The arrangements were flawless and celebrated in a festive spirit."

Dr. H. Hanumanthappa, Former Dean, Director, Professor, HoD Skin & STD, Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysuru

"The program was a grand success. It is impossible for governments alone to recognize everyone. Vijay Karnataka has taken on that responsibility with sincerity."

B.K. Shivakumar, President, Davangere Areca Development, Processing and Marketing Co-Operative Society and Director, Karnataka State Areca Marketing Co-Operative Association, Shivamogga

"As the only woman awardee on stage, I felt an immense sense of pride. My heartfelt thanks to Vijay Karnataka for recognizing me."

Dr. Hema. S, Associate Professor in Cardiology, Preventive & Interventional Cardiology, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Science and Research, Mysuru

"Vijay Karnataka is doing a phenomenal job identifying and honoring talent from every corner. Everyone here was chosen thoughtfully, and that speaks volumes."

M J Karthik, Joint Secretary, Sri Sai Angels Group of Educational Institutions, Chikkamagaluru

"From invitation to award presentation, everything was professional and thoughtful. May such inspiring events continue."

Dr. Vinod Kumar C.S., Professor, Dept Of Microbiology & Director, Molecular laboratory, S.S Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Center, Davanagere

No method to road repair madness

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, the initiative seems to have remained largely on paper.

Hot mix plant not that hot

Sources said that in 2021, BBMP set up a hot mix asphalt unit at Kannur on the city's outskirts at a cost of ₹7.5 crore. It promised that Bengaluru would be free from potholes once this unit began operations. Several years have passed, but the problem has only worsened, making the promise seem hollow. Even light showers are enough to expose the poor state of roads. Potholes pop up like craters, turning daily commutes into painful endurance tests. Choked with traffic and damaged surfaces, roads have become nightmares, especially for two-wheeler riders, many of whom suffer injuries or worse.

The monsoon only aggravates the issue. After just a day or two of rain, Bengaluru's roads resemble lunar landscapes. The difference between a pothole and the road is impossible to tell.

As riders swerve to avoid one pothole, they often fall into another. From ward roads to flyovers, the pothole menace spares no stretch. Poorly executed repairs and low-quality materials cause gravel and tar to peel off, leaving roads in worse condition than before. Even newly asphalted roads now show deep, dangerous craters.

A civic activist said, "Each year, multiple people are injured due to to pothole-related accidents. Yet, the BBMP has failed to find a permanent solution to this life-threatening issue in India's so-called IT capital. BBMP had earlier warned that Assistant Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers would be held accountable for failing to repair potholes in their wards. But no disciplinary action has been reported so far."

Meanwhile, metro construction, underground drain work, telecom and gas pipeline laying — all contribute to tearing up already fragile roads. Even when roads are re-asphalted, poor workmanship causes them to deteriorate quickly.

Shoddy repair

Experts say potholes must be repaired using proper methodology — cutting around the hole, cleaning it, filling it, and rolling it properly. But this standard operating procedure is rarely followed. Instead, random patchwork is done, resulting in uneven roads and even more risk to vehicles and riders. The result? Not just inconvenience, but real costs. Damaged vehicles, hospital bills, lost productivity, and most importantly, lives — are all casualties of Bengaluru's crumbling roads.

Addressing the poor condition of roads, BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao on Monday directed officials to prioritise filling potholes on arterial and sub-arterial roads across the city.

He also emphasised timely repairs on ward-level roads. Given the monsoon, officials were asked to use cold mix and eco-fix materials to patch up potholes without delay. "With heavy rains posing a threat of urban flooding, officials should clean roadside shoulder drains and grating points using silt and tractors. This is aimed at ensuring smooth water flow and preventing waterlogging during downpours," Rao said.

One app for all rail-related issues

In a move to enhance passenger convenience and promote digital-first travel, Indian Railways has launched RailOne, a unified app that brings together multiple rail services on a single platform. The app consolidates features from IRCTC Rail Connect, UTS on Mobile, NTES, Rail Madad, and Food on Track, allowing users to book reserved and unreserved tickets, check live train status, order food, and file grievances seamlessly.

Officials from South Western Railway's Bengaluru Division have called it a "single-window solution" for all travel needs and urged passengers to adopt the app. Existing users of IRCTC and UTS apps can log in with their current credentials. It also integrates R-Wallet, the Railways' own payment system. RailOne is now available for download on both Android and iOS platforms, offering a streamlined travel experience for all.

Jewellery heist tied to family feud

The Kothanur police have arrested four individuals, including a woman who conspired with her boyfriend to steal gold jewellery from her uncle's house in Bhairathi village. Police have recovered 548 grams of gold ornaments, gold bars, and ₹10 lakh in cash, with the total seizure valued at approximately ₹65 lakh.

The complaint was filed by Srinivas Reddy, a real estate businessman, who suspected that gold jewellery kept in his bedroom locker had been stolen.

Meanwhile, the Jayanagar Police have arrested three individuals involved in a house burglary and recovered 1.085 kg of gold jewellery, silver items, and a two-wheeler, with the total seizure valued at ₹78.5 lakh.

Use of tech, signages working, say traffic police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

safe," said a senior official from BTP. BTP's contactless enforcement includes ITEMS, FTVR (Field Traffic Violation Report), and violations that are crowd-sourced, including from the public domain through the ASTraM app. Contact-based enforcement is mainly focused on Drink & Drive checks and special drives against any specific violators.

The road accident data also underlines that out of the total, the largest number of fatal accidents (26) was recorded at Chikkajala traffic police station, followed by 25 such accidents in Yelahanka, 17 each in Devanahalli and Thalagattapura, and 16 fatal accidents were recorded from KR Puram.

Overall (fatal and non-fatal accidents), KR Puram recorded the maximum number of accidents (131), followed by Yelahanka (122), Chikkajala (108), Kamakshipalya (92), and Kengeri (87).

According to DCP, North division, an important factor contributing to the higher number of cases in Bengaluru North division is the international airport road elevated expressway. Moreover, revised jurisdictional limits have also led to the inclusion of outskirt areas, increasing this number.

"Our jurisdiction has expanded into the city's outskirts, bringing in a major portion of Doddaballapur Main Road, which is a state highway. Both Doddaballapur Main Road along with elevated expressway are prone to accidents due to vehicles speeding. Moreover, people on the outskirts are found violating traffic rules more often than not. However, we are working on sensitising people in these areas about traffic rules and the importance of following these rules," said DCP North (Traffic).

Despite a minor drop in the number of killer accidents, road safety experts say the number of deaths is high, pointing to the risky nature of city's roads. "There is a need for a city-wide awareness campaign to change road users' behaviour. Poor visibility during night hours, pothole-ridden roads, and a lack of speed enforcement are some reasons that lead to such accidents. Last but not least, pedestrian zones in the city need improvement by leaps and bounds," said a city-based expert.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MURULI A (Old Name) resident of No. M 27, Pipeline Road, Near Ellamma Temple, Ilyaz Nagar, J.P.Nagar, BANGALORE-560078 have changed my name to A MURALI (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 29/7/2025 Before Notary Deepa. M Bangalore.

I, KALPANA SRINIVAS. R/at GSR Arcaade, Sri Nilaya, 150/20, 9th Cross, 24th Main Road, HSR Layout Sector 1, Bengaluru - 560102. Have changed to Kalpana Halanayakanahalli Narayana Reddy vide Afdt Dtd 28.07.2025 Sworn before Notary: Devaraja E.

I, Nagambike K P W/o Umamahesh residing at #228, Sharana Mandara, Sampige Road End, Baddihalli, Tumkur-572104 have changed my name to Nagambika K P in further all official purposes Vide Affidavit dated 28.07.2025 Sworn before notary K C Shashikala Bengaluru.

I, Nikita Hitesh Singh D/o Hitesh Singh R/o 14101, 10th Floor, Tower. 14, Prestige Ferns Residency, Haralur Main Road, Haralur Bengaluru 560102 I have changed my name from Nikita to Nikita Hitesh Singh for all purpose.

I, Siscilia Sharon Ralley W/O, Conway Raymond Goodman R/o S2 Sai Kings Dale Apartments Horamavu Agara Main Road Kalyananagar 560043 have changed my name to Sharon Siscilia Goodman for all purposes.

I, SUNIL R. R/at.#.38/1099, GIS 8989, 20th R Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560024. Have changed to SUNIL KUMAR R vide Afdt Dtd 25.07.2025 Sworn before Notary: Devaraja E.

I, SAMEER MOHAMED YOUSUF, R/a.#37, E No.6th Street, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-51. I, have Changed my name to MOHAMMED SAMEER, Vide affidavit, dated 28/07/2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hussain. Bangalore

I Manshree Agrawat W/O, Sunil Kumar Babulal R/o No 17 17/4 Lakshmi Narasimha Nilaya 4th Floor Kenchappa Road Cross Frazer Town Bengaluru - 560005 have changed my name to Manshree Agarawat.

I, Anjali Bissa G w/o Vikram Vyas R/o 908, Tower-8, Salarpuria Satva Divinity, Pantharapalya, Bengaluru 560026 have changed my name to Anjali Vyas. Affidavit Dt.29/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Abhisheik Hk S/O, Balakrishna Setty Hv R/o Gandhipet, Huliyar Hobli, Vivekaanda Street, Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk. Huliyar, Tumakuru 572218 have changed my name to Abhishek Hk for all purposes.

I, Rajendra Rao Y S/O, Raghavendra Rao Y R/o No 3, T 1, S M Vishveshwaraya Layout, 3rd Floor, Gnanabharathi, Bengaluru 560056. have changed my name to Rajendra Rao for all purposes

I, Riyaz Ahammad S/o Mahammad Ali Honnur Sab R/o No 22 4th Cross Kouser Nagar Dinnur Main Road R.T. Nagar Bangalore- 560032 have changed my name to Riyaz Ahmed for all purposes.

I, Rupsona Khatun W/o Bablu Dhara R/o #903,5th Main Road Kamalanagar, Basaveshwaranagar B'lore-560079 have changed my name to Rupsona Dhara.

I Syed Mohiuddin Syed Altaff S/O, Syed Mohiuddin R/o 3/11 K H B Quatres Jayanagar 1st Block Bangalore 560011 have changed my name to Syed Althaf

I, Mohammad Shafiulla R/o E-76, Kamipura East Side Kamipura PO: Kumbalagodu B'lore-560074 have changed my name to Mohammed Shafi.

I, Riyaz Ahammad S/o Mahammad Ali Honnur Sab R/o No 22 4th Cross Kouser Nagar Dinnur Main Road R.T. Nagar Bangalore- 560032 have changed my name to Riyaz Ahmed S/o Mohammed Ali

I, Manohar Narasappaya Rao R/o #802, Block 9, Suncity Apartments, Sarjapur Ring Road, Ibblur, Bangalore 560102 have changed my minor daughter's name from Anshika Manohar Rao to Anshika Rao.

I Sunil Kumar Naidu S/O, Dinesh Kumar Naidu R/o No 40/a, 3rd Main Road,1st Cross,s K Garden, bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Naidu Dinesh.

I Shali Rosy Puthoor Lonappan R/o No: 146, 10th Cross, 2nd Block , R.T.Nagar, Bangalore-560032 have changed my name to Shali Jaison as per document

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Accident claim: 'No licence doesn't mean negligence'

Court says concrete evidence must be presented to establish person's role in causing accident

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The Karnataka High Court has ruled that the absence of a driving licence does not automatically amount to contributory negligence in a road accident claim. Justice Dr Chillakur Sumalatha observed that unless concrete evidence is presented to establish a person's role in causing the accident, mere absence of a licence cannot be held against the injured party.

The ruling came in a case involving appellant Shivegowda, who met with an accident on January 4, 2015, near Jodigatte's milk dairy. He was riding a motorcycle with a relative and was attempting a U-turn towards Hirehalli Village when another motorcyclist, driving at high speed and rashly on the extreme right side of the road, collided with them. The impact caused Shivegowda to fall and suffer injuries.

IN HIGH COURT

Shivegowda contested the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal's order that attributed 25% contributory negligence to him. His counsel argued that the tribunal had ignored substantial evidence indicating that the accident was entirely caused by the negligence of the other rider. A police charge sheet corroborated this, stating that the accident was due to the rash and negligent driving of the offending motorcyclist. The insurance company, in contrast, submitted no evidence to show that Shivegowda contributed to the incident, relying solely on the argument that he lacked a valid driving licence.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Police chargesheet confirms rash driving by another rider; no blame placed on the injured appellant, says court

Justice Sumalatha noted that the vehicle owner (respondent No.1) had not contested the case and was declared ex parte, while the insurance company submitted only the policy and failed to substantiate any contributory negligence. "Only because the appellant was not holding a driving license to ride his vehicle... it cannot be held that he contributed to the accident," the court held.

Allowing the appeal in part, the High Court also ruled that the tribunal erred in not awarding compensation for future earnings loss. The bench awarded Shivegowda ₹5.67 lakh under this head.

High Court Reviews Crowd Control Protocols Post-Stampede

The Karnataka High Court on Monday took up a suo motu PIL concerning the deadly stampede outside Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium during RCB's IPL 2025 victory celebrations. A bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi clarified the scope of the petition: "We are only looking at two things: whether the state is taking action, and what future protocols are needed to prevent such incidents."

Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty stated that around 3 lakh people turned up despite the stadium's 35,000 capacity, attributing the chaos to free entry. He sought time to submit a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for crowd management.

> **"Lacking a driving licence does not automatically imply contributory negligence if other evidence proves the other driver was solely at fault**
> – Justice Dr Chillakur Sumalatha

Senior Advocate B K Sampath, for DNA Entertainment Ltd., decried reputational damage and said no official report had been shared with them even after 15 days. Amicus Curiae S Susheela referred to NDMA's 2014 mass gathering guidelines and G Keith Still's "Introduction to Crowd Science", urging a collective responsibility model.

The court discussed preventive mechanisms, citing the Haridwar stampede, and mooted a police verification protocol for crowd control. "Nothing will be in sealed cover," the bench asserted. The next hearing is scheduled for September 1.

Mayne magic dazzles with sixth win at BTC

Ikram Khan
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It was magic at the Bangalore Turf Club, the classy Mayne Magic recording his sixth straight success. The galloping goldmine pitted against seasoned higher-ranked rivals uncorked a champagne effort to win the prestigious Karnataka Mile Championship Cup in resplendent style.

It was a big reason to celebrate for sporting owner Eugene Mayne. After the successful showdown at sundown, the bubbly flowed and celebrations carried on late into the night. The star performer's top-class effort thrilled the railbirds, who rose to their feet in a standing ovation. With six wins on the trot, Mayne Magic now looks poised to earn the coveted title of "Horse of the Season" this summer.

An elated Eugene Mayne revealed that he had purchased Mayne Magic for ₹25 lakh and the colt has already earned stakes worth ₹45 lakh. Given his current form, the earnings are only expected to rise. "I was a passionate racing buff during my college days in Bangalore back in the late 1980s," said Mayne, the head of Tristar, a liquid logistics firm based in the Middle East. "I began as a railbird and eventually decided to take the plunge as an owner. I bought a couple of horses in the 1990s and continued to pick one or two over the years, but none

> **"I picked up Mayne Magic at ₹25 lakh; he's already won ₹45 lakh in stakes, and will add more**
> – Eugene Mayne

of them won a single race in Bangalore. Naturally, I was disheartened—until Mayne Magic came along. And it's been all magic since then."

With the stunning run of Mayne Magic turning heads in the Indian racing circuit, Mayne now plans to invest in top pedigree stock during the upcoming winter sales. "This horse has given me confidence. Like many other small owners, I now believe that all it takes is one good horse to go for the biggest prize—the Derby. I will certainly give it a shot," he said.

Trainer Kishan Thomas beams with pride after six-in-a-row hero Mayne Magic's dazzling championship victory.

Mayne also credited his trainer Kishan Thomas for the remarkable transformation and sustained success of Mayne Magic. "Kishan has played a stellar role in this classic journey. He understands the horse perfectly," said Mayne. "And full marks to jockey Antony Raj as well. He has built a special bond with Mayne Magic, riding him to all six wins. The horse simply delivers his best every time Antony is in the saddle." Trainer Kishan Thomas, basking in the success, was full of praise for his stable star. "He's simply the best horse I've trained. Horses like him don't come around every year," said Thomas. "He's put me on the high road, and I hope a few more of his calibre come into my yard in the years to come."

As the sun set on another memorable day at the Bangalore Turf Club, one thing was clear—Mayne Magic is not just winning races, he's weaving a story that has injected new hope into the dreams of countless small owners and reaffirmed the magic of the sport.

Fuel cess boosts labour welfare

To fund welfare schemes for workers, the Karnataka government is considering a cess on petrol and diesel, Labour Minister Santosh Lad announced. He said the move aims to support labour welfare without heavily burdening consumers. Citing the Cinema Mill Scheme, which collects a cess on movie tickets to aid film workers, he said a similar approach is being planned under the Transport Bill. The funds will be used for initiatives like accident insurance for commercial vehicle drivers. Lad added that even a Rs.1 hike in fuel cess could generate thousands of crores in revenue, helping address long-pending demands of the working class and improving their social security. — BMB

UPI auto-debits get time slots

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced key changes to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system, effective from August 1. These changes aim to boost efficiency, reduce server load, and improve user experience without impacting small-value transactions.

As per the new guidelines, users will be allowed to check their account balance on UPI apps only 50 times a day. Similarly, retrieving linked bank account details using a mobile number will be capped at 25 times per day. Currently, there are no such limits in place. The move is intended to streamline backend operations, especially during high-traffic periods.

In a significant update to recurring payments, AutoPay transactions for services such as Netflix, Spotify, and mutual fund SIPs will now be processed only during off-peak hours—before 10 AM, between 1 PM and 5 PM, and after 9:30 PM. This adjustment follows a series of UPI outages in March and April that disrupted services for millions of users.

Furthermore, in the case of failed or pending transactions, users will now be allowed to check the status only three times, with a mandatory 90-second interval between each attempt. These changes will be auto-enabled on UPI apps, requiring no user intervention. — BMB

Lokayukta crackdown: cash, gold seized

In a coordinated pre-dawn operation on Monday, the Karnataka Lokayukta raided the residences and offices of six government officials across Bengaluru, Hassan, Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Tumkur, and Gauribidanur over allegations of disproportionate assets. Despite heavy rain, over 10 locations were searched. Officials raided included BBMP Revenue Officer Venkatesh, BDA's Om Prakash, NHAI's Jayanna, TP engineer Anjaneya Murthy, Taluk Health Officer Dr Venkatesh, and Rural Water JE Anjaneya. Unaccounted cash, gold, property documents, and multiple real estate holdings were found. In Chitradurga, a clinic was searched; in Channapatna, a hardware shop. Investigations and asset valuation are ongoing, with officials caught off guard during the surprise operation. — BMB

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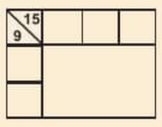
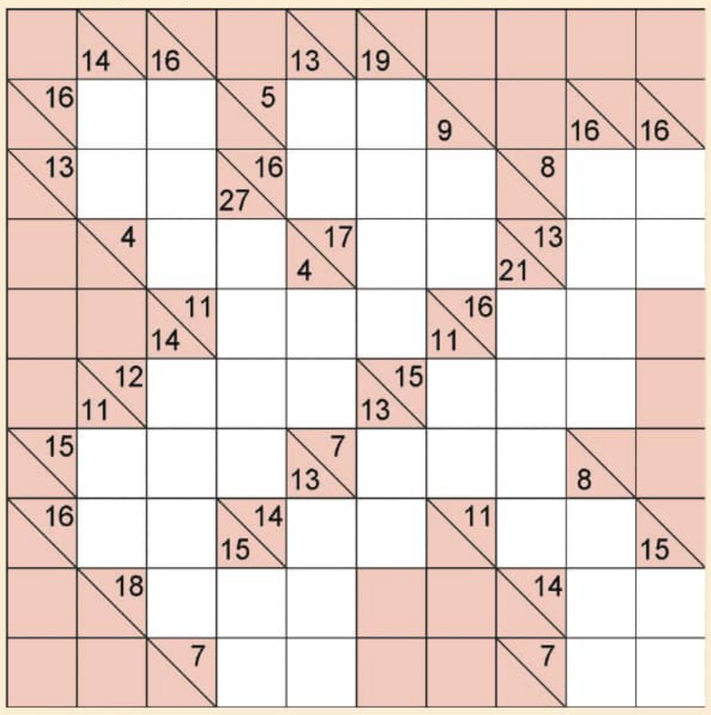
Kakuro

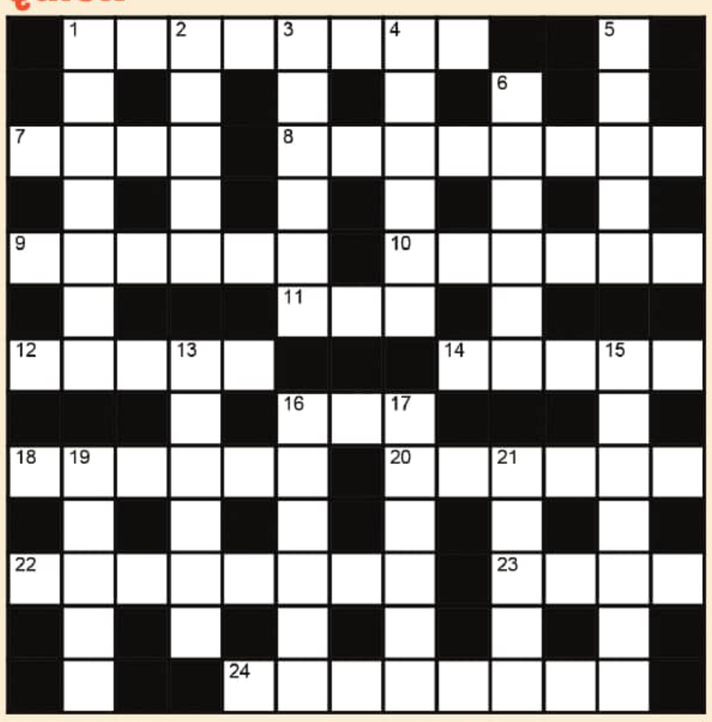
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Internet and other contemporary communication channels (3,5)
7 Famous educational institution on Bannerghatta road (3-1)
8 This run completes your half century? (8)
9 Of lemons (6)
10 Overcharge (3,3)
11 Flat-crowned hat (3)
12 Not narrow (5)
14 Concert hall (5)
16 Resin (3)
18 Queen of Crime _Christie (6)
20 Greek island in the SE Aegean sea (6)
22 Wavering; undecided (8)
23 Stylish (4)
24 Libertine (8)

DOWN

1 Louder (7)
2 Russian born U.S. painter Max (5)
3 Purport or intent (6)
4 Feeble in body and health (6)
5 Excluded from (3,2)
6 Immersed in water (6)
13 Achieve (6)
15 Exactly thousand grammes? (3,4)
16 Monastery washbasin (6)
17 Lame person's support (6)
19 Pick up leftovers in corn field (5)
21 Cinema award (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS S
GBRRNGG CG PFN RFCUK JZ VBKVRCPO.

Linemaro

You are like a dictionary because you put meaning to my life

Mindchow

First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, and then you win

Joke of the day

Why can't a leopard hide? Because he's always spotted

Loop

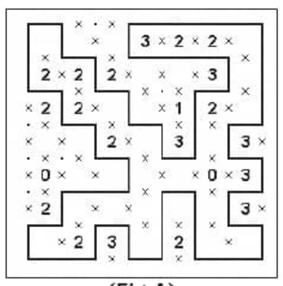
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

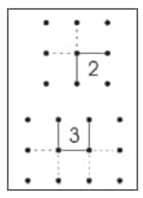
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

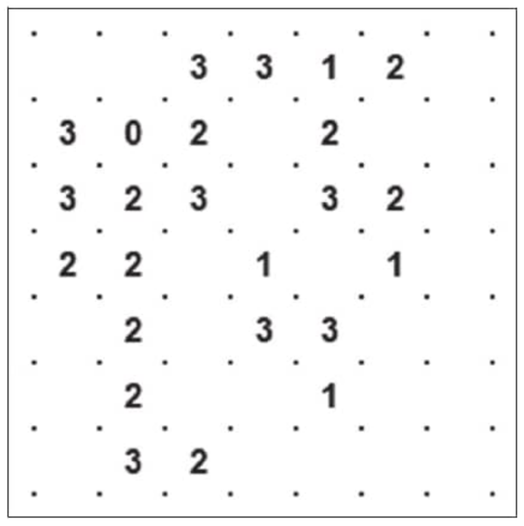
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



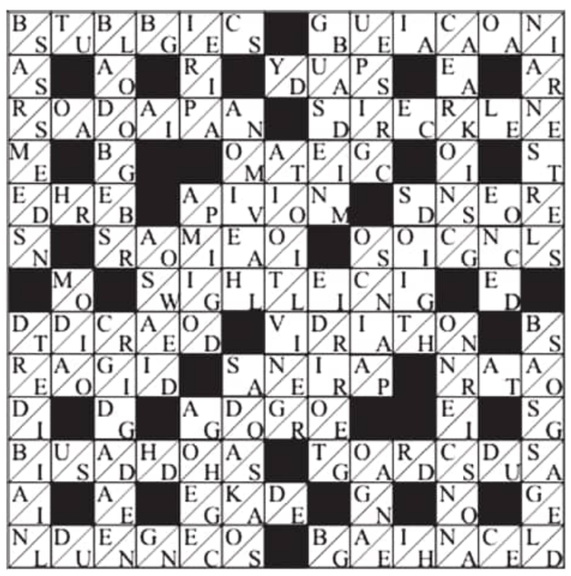
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



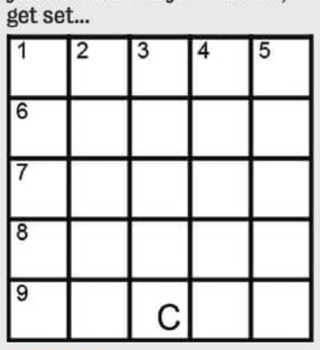
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

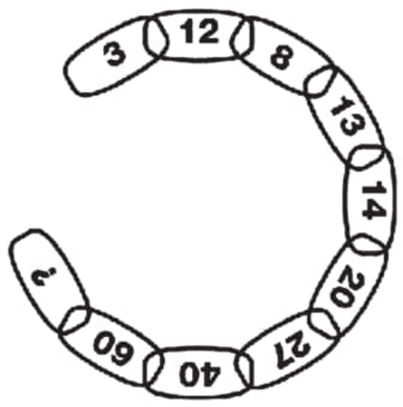
1 Comas; 6 Arab a; 7 Gaper; 8 UK Aim; 9 Chest

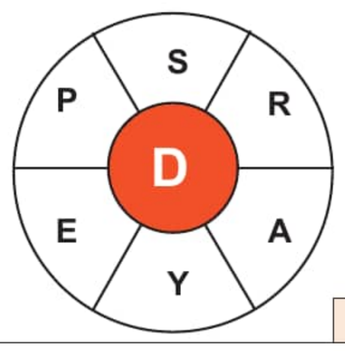
DOWN

1 Act up; 2 A mare; 3 Gamic; 4 He Boa; 5 R asks

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the chain?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; **16** Good; **18** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3			1		9	5		
	2		3		6		4	1
		5						
					3	2	7	
		6	7		4	8		
	9	8	5					
						3		
5	6		2		7		9	
		2	9		1			8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 18
2 2 4 8

Medium = 9
2 3 4 7

Hard = 4
2 3 4 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

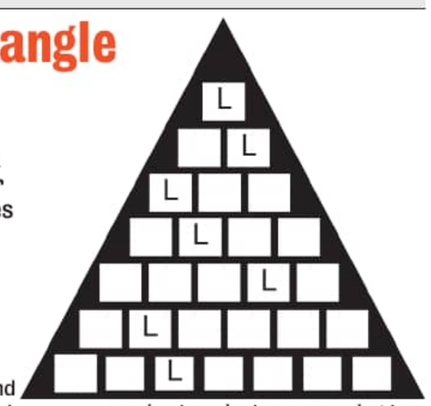
Differences: 1. Thumb is moved. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Door is wider. 4. Nose is different. 5. Shoulder strap is different. 6. Pocket on side of bag is missing.

Riddler

What one word goes with each of these to make a new phrase? Strip Ground Fan

Alpha triangle

1 Learner's plate
2 Spanish article
3 Went in front
4 Arctic transport
5 Affairs of honour
6 Avoids or escapes
7 Downpours

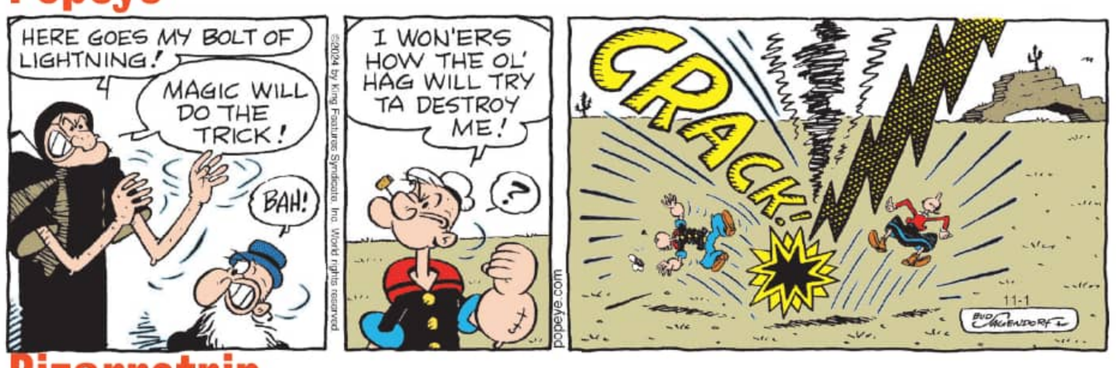


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

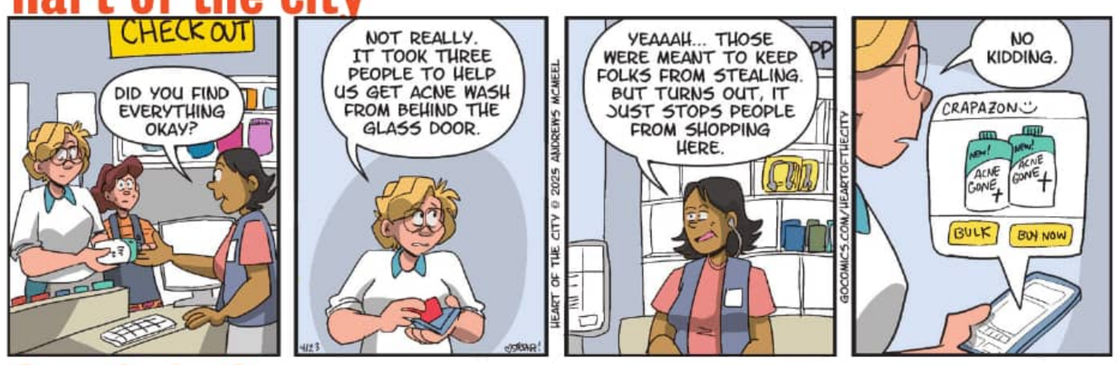
Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


CHECK OUT
DID YOU FIND EVERYTHING OKAY?
NOT REALLY. IT TOOK THREE PEOPLE TO HELP US GET ACNE WASH FROM BEHIND THE GLASS DOOR.
YEAAAH... THOSE WERE MEANT TO KEEP FOLKS FROM STEALING. BUT TURNS OUT, IT JUST STOPS PEOPLE FROM SHOPPING HERE.
NO KIDDING.
CRAPAZON
ACNE GONE
BULK
BUY NOW
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 AUDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

DRUG CITY JUST TEXTED SAYING THAT MY PRESCRIPTION IS READY.
MAYBE WE COULD STOP AND PICK UP MY MEDS ON THE WAY TO THE MOVIE...
MY, M'LADY, HOW OUR DATING TALK HAS CHANGED FROM DAYS AGONE!
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4-23

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your enthusiasm and focus will help you progress toward your goals. You're likely to meet your targets with ease. Short work-related trips may bring future benefits, and support from subordinates will help complete key projects. However, be mindful of potential conflicts with siblings.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Blessed by the Moon today, you may plan to invest more capital into your family business, potentially boosting its growth. Your social service efforts may earn recognition or rewards. Expect positive family news that brings joy and warmth to your home. Enjoying delicious meals will further lift your spirits.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A cheerful mood and good health will boost your inner strength and self-confidence today. You may find it easier to avoid getting involved in messy or complex tasks. Your social reputation may rise, and thanks to your good karma, destiny may support you in beginning a new creative project.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Disappointment or mood swings may trouble you today. It's important to control your temper, especially during conversations, to avoid unnecessary losses. Refrain from long journeys and avoid rash driving. It's also wise to stay away from oceans or water bodies for the day.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Peace of mind surrounds you today. Improved income may enhance your financial stability. Romantic moments with your spouse will bring harmony to your relationship, and singles may find a suitable partner. New opportunities may emerge in your professional life, supporting your overall progress.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
With the help of a strong professional network, you'll be able to implement plans successfully. A major work order could come your way due to your dedication. Your relationship with your spouse will strengthen, improving your domestic life. Your efforts may be appreciated by your boss.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
The Moon's blessings bring relief from past chaos. You can now restart postponed tasks, and your hard work may be rewarded. Financial gains are likely in business, and unexpected opportunities could further your growth. An international trip might also be in the planning stage.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Health concerns may leave you feeling low and could affect your professional and personal life. You might also worry about your spouse's well-being. Stay patient and avoid starting new business ventures for now. Students are advised to stay grounded and focus seriously on their studies.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Moon's blessings help you make swift professional decisions. New business opportunities may arise, boosting your confidence. You may also initiate an innovative project with your business partner, setting the stage for future success.

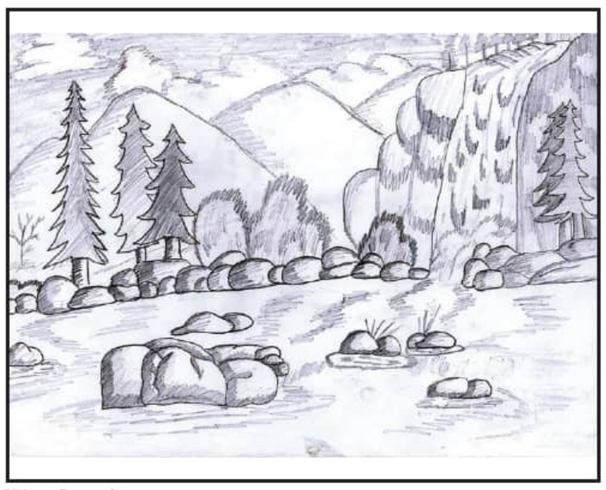
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A positive Moon brings good health and resolution to chronic issues. Your children's health will also improve. Money that was previously stuck may now be recovered, and you may be able to clear outstanding debts, bringing financial relief.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Moon's influence brings peace and clarity. You'll be more decisive and ready to seize opportunities without hesitation. Past good deeds may support you in overcoming current challenges. Romantic relationships thrive, and job seekers might land the right role through a friend's help.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel low or detached today, leading to dissatisfaction and an inability to meet your commitments. This could harm your reputation and affect both personal and professional life. A lack of confidence may block your creativity. Practice patience and try to reconnect with your responsibilities.

KIDZONE

Anvi, Bengaluru



Vijay, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER Out. Strip out is to remove parts from a machine. Ground out is when you hit a ground ball in baseball and are thrown out at first. Fan out is when something, such as cards, are spread out like a fan.

QUOTE UNCODE
Success is the child of audacity.

FAST FIVE

C	A	M	O	S
P	A	G	E	R
U	M	I	A	K
T	E	C	H	S

BULL'S EYE dare, deer, drape, dray, dyer, parsed, prayed, rayed, read, ready, spade, spayed, sped, SPRAYED, spread,

STRIKE OUT

L	U	N	G	E	S		G	A	I	N	E	D		
A	E		E	K	E		G		O		E			
B	U	D	D	H	A		T	A	R	S	U	S		
I		D		G	O	G	O		I		S			
R	A	I	D		S	N	I	P		R	A	O		
T	I	R	E	D		I	D	A	H	O		B		
M		W	I	L	T	I	N	G		D				
E	R	E		A	V	O	N		S	N	G	N	S	
M		G		O	T	I	C		I		T			
R	A	D	I	A	N		S	I	C	K	E	N		
A		O		R		Y	A	P		A		A		
B	U	L	G	E	S		B	E	A	C	O	N		

QUICK

												N		
												A		
												L		
												A	G	A
												T		
												A		
												E		
												S		
												O		

MENSA PUZZLE
93. Starting with the top segment, and moving clockwise, add the numbers in the first two segments together and subtract 7 to give the next number around.
= 25 / 5 = 5
= (5 x 5) / (4+1)

SOLVE IN 1M

SUDOKU

3	4	7	1	2	9	5	8	6
8	2	9	3	5	6	7	4	1
6	1	5	4	7	8	9	3	2
1	5	4	8	6	3	2	7	9
2	3	6	7	9	4	8	1	5
7	9	8	5	1	2	4	6	3
9	8	1	6	4	5	3	2	7
5	6	3	2	8	7	1	9	4
4	7	2	9	3	1	6	5	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, El, Led, Sled, Duels, Eludes, Deluges.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 x 4 + 8 + 2 = 18
Medium
4 - 3 x 7 + 2 = 9
Hard
2 x 3 - 5 x 4 = 4

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Not now, not ever
Actor Mallika Sherawat said she won't be a part of the upcoming reality show "Bigg Boss 19" and has no plans to be in it in the future. She posted this on Insta to shut down all rumours

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

After a 9-year hiatus

Director GK Mudduraj makes a comeback in Sandalwood after a 9-year hiatus with Educated Bulls. Its muhurat function was held at Chamundeshwari Studios on Friday. Educated Bulls is Mudduraj's 41st movie as director. He is also bankrolling the movie under the MS Enterprises banner.

Jayaram C, a chartered accountant, sounded the clap board while Manjunath Babu switched on the camera for the muhurat scene.

"My last movie was Young India that was released in 2016. Educated Bulls is my third movie as a producer. The movie, apart from all elements to entertain the audiences, has a message to society," said Mudduraj.

Elaborating on the concept, the director said he has seen youngsters who come to Bengaluru from other cities to become somebody in Sandalwood but end up with nothing. "The movie aims to answer questions with questions. It revolves around a boy and girl who come to Bengaluru from a village. They become friendly with educated youths and what happens to them is the story," he said.

Producer is hero

Producer Shilpa Srinivas, one of the producers of movie Upendra, debuts as a hero with a film that his namesake.

The film Shilpa Srinivas is directed by RK Gandhi. Actor-cum-editor Nagendra Urs sounded the clapboard for the muhurat scene of the movie at Gattiganabbe near Hoskote.

According to director RK Gandhi, the film revolves around a person who teaches a lesson to people who ruin the image of Sandalwood. "Many youths come to Gandhinagar, the hub of Kannada film industry, to act in movies. Some of them bring bad names to the industry. A few of them become bankrupt after blowing up all the money their parents give them," the director said. The movie features Kishore Kasargod, Swathi Lingaraj, Priyanka, Master Manvith, Master Abbanth, Shobharaj, Nagendra Urs, Kiran Kumar Gattinabbe, CT Jayaram, Hoskote Shivaram, and Lokesh.

The movie's shooting is expected to be wrapped up in two schedules in Bengaluru, Chikkaballapur, and Hoskote.

Gone too soon

These young actors still shine in memory

Star of promise
Sushant Singh Rajput, once a television favourite, became a beloved film actor through Kai Po Che, MS Dhoni and Chhichhore. He was 34 when he passed, leaving behind a trail of thought-provoking performances and an unresolved void in modern Indian storytelling.

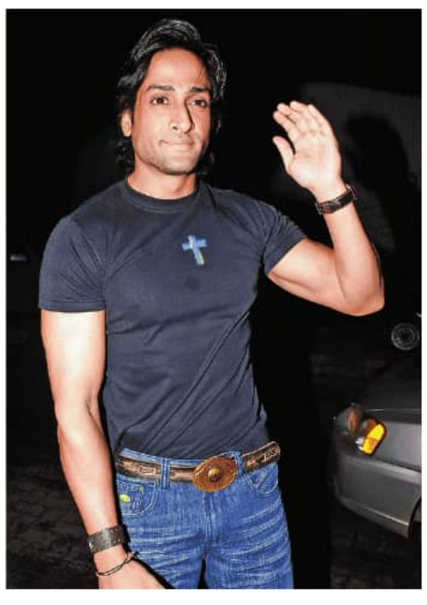
Little wonder lost
Taruni Sachdev, known as the Rasna girl and praised for her role in Paa, was only 14 when her life ended in a tragic plane crash. Her vibrant smile and natural talent made her unforgettable even in a short but impactful career.

—Sonal Khandelwal, ETimes

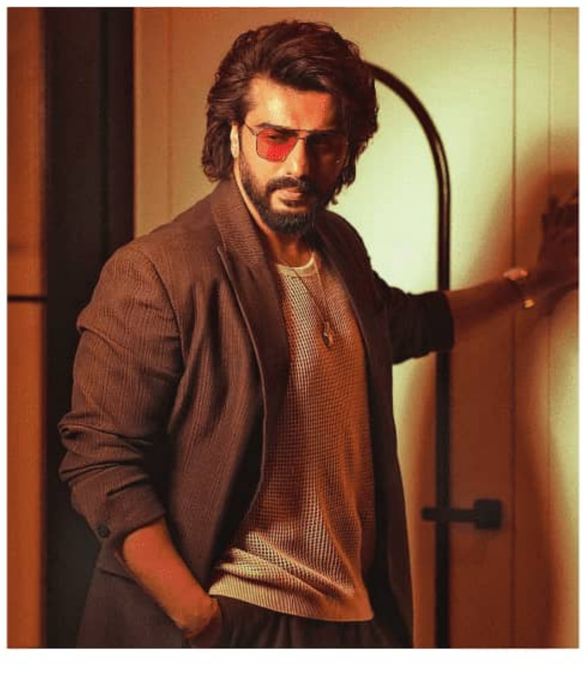
Unspoken farewell
Jiah Khan made a bold debut opposite Amitabh Bachchan in Nishabd and later appeared in Ghajini and Housefull. Her sudden passing at age 25 sent shockwaves through the industry, raising questions and sparking conversations about mental health in the spotlight.

RISING BEAUTY LOST
Divya Bharti rose to stardom in the early 90s with back-to-back blockbusters like Deewana and Shola Aur Shabnam. She passed away mysteriously at just 19, leaving behind a legacy of unmatched screen presence and youthful charm that still resonates with fans of Hindi cinema.

Life cut short
Inder Kumar, known for films like Wanted and Tumko Na Bhool Paayenge, had a promising career as a supporting lead. He passed away at the age of 43 due to cardiac arrest, cutting short a journey that had just begun to find new strength in television and film roles.



Story of transformation



Arjun Kapoor is another actor who becomes the picture-perfect story of how determination and willpower can get you to your end goal. The actor's transformation and journey into stardom are nothing short of inspiring.

The actor, who won the hearts of many with his 2012 debut film 'Ishaqzaade', had undergone a lot of challenges and issues before he was even fit enough to take on the role. Previously, the actor used to weigh almost 140 kg.

In a conversation with Hindustan Times, the actor had shared how he had managed to lose so much weight for his debut role alongside Parineeti Chopra. He had shared that, "Before I started, I lost around 50 kg. I was in my 20s then, I went from 143 kg down to 93 kg. But 10 years later, my body has changed. I have had injuries, health issues, workload, etc. But it's not that I'm not mentally capable. It might take me longer physically to do it, which is why it has taken me 15 months to get into shape."

He has also talked about his weight loss journey in interviews, where he has detailed what restrictions he had to limit himself to. In an Indian Express interview, he shared that though he was a foodie, he gave up almost everything and cut out junk in order to get where he is today. When talking about the one thing he focuses most on when losing weight, he emphasised the importance of walking in an old Time of India interview.

—ETimes